

Nowra Athletics Club Financial Assistance Policy – Individual Club Members

The primary goal of the Nowra Athletics Club Financial Assistance Policy for individual club members is to support the growth and development of committed and talented members through financial assistance. The financial assistance is intended to support the aspirations of club members to fulfil their athletic potential through participation in high level events while still remaining connected to their grassroots.

The Club acknowledges the financial commitments made by emerging and established athletes and their families in achieving a high standard of participation in athletics. Financial assistance is mostly intended to support young developing athletes to fulfil their potential within athletics. However, where masters' athletes represent the Club on a National or International stage, financial support may also be considered by the Club Committee.

Financial assistance

Members may receive financial support to help them compete at high calibre athletics events at a national or international level which are held interstate or overseas. The financial assistance offered is of a supplementary nature. It is not intended to cover the full costs of participation in the event.

Financial assistance may be used by the athlete to support:

- Travel and accommodation expenses
- Training and coaching costs
- Sporting apparel
- Entry fees

Application process

The Club understands that parents/guardians typically bear the financial costs for their child to compete at high-level competition, however the application for financial assistance is expected to be led by the applicant, seeking financial assistance. If an applicant is under the age of 18 or an applicant has special circumstances that make it difficult for them to complete the process, then a parent/guardian can apply on their behalf however the Club expects that the applicant assists with the application as far as possible.

The application process for financial assistance will be as follows:

1. The applicant should communicate in writing with the Nowra Athletics Club Committee requesting financial assistance. In this the applicant should specify:
 - what the support is for
 - details of how they meet the eligibility criteria (listed below) including details of their support/volunteering for the Club and their representation of the Club.

The Club expects that the written request provides sufficient detail of the applicant's athletic background, achievements, goals, and why they are seeking financial support for the Committee to make an informed decision.
2. The requests for financial assistance will be discussed at a regular committee meeting or an extraordinary meeting if circumstances require a more immediate response.
3. The Committee will then communicate with the applicant the outcome of the request.

Eligibility

To be eligible for financial assistance, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- **Active Membership:** Applicants must be registered and active members of Nowra Athletics Club and must have represented the Club for at least two years before the first event for which they receive financial assistance.
- **Commitment:** Applicants should demonstrate a high level of commitment to the Club by participating in Club activities and supporting its initiatives.
- **Regular Competing:** Applicants must actively participate in Club events or NSW events throughout the season. This may involve:
 - participating in local Winter and/or Summer competition wherever possible and/or
 - participating in NSW team events as a Nowra Athletics Club athlete and/or
 - participating in State organised events with NSW or Capital Athletics, representing the Club
- **High Level Representation:** Applicants must be selected to compete at a recognised national or international competition which is held interstate or overseas. This does not include school events, such as Australian All Schools, or Primary and High School events. For Masters athletes, where there is no selection process or qualifying standards, applicants who meet the other criteria may still be considered by the Committee however Masters Games will not be eligible.
- **Presentation:** Applicants must compete at every representative or organised athletics event in the Club uniform unless Club uniform is substituted for a State or National uniform, as required under respective event rules.
- **Affiliation:** Applicants must list their affiliation as Nowra Athletics Club for every event that allows a statement of affiliation.
- **Volunteering/Assistance:** Preference will be given to applicants who have volunteered for the Club in some capacity. The Club recognises that athlete schedules are busy with training and competing however volunteers are essential to the sustainability of our Club, so any assistance is greatly appreciated. A couple of extra minutes to help set up or pack up equipment can be beneficial to the operation of the Club events. Assistance could also be offered to the Club in the form of mentorship to juniors and other peers in the Club or by participating in/attending Club Presentation/Award activities or other special events.

Expectations of successful applicants

The Club expects that where a member has been provided financial assistance that they adhere to the following principles:

- **Adherence to Fair Play:** Members are expected to uphold the principles of fair play and integrity, and be 'a good sport' on and off the track/field.
- **Compliance with Athletics Rules:** Members must adhere to the rules and regulations set forth by the governing sports bodies (eg Athletics NSW, Athletics Australia) in all competitions and events.
- **Regular Communication:** Members are expected to maintain regular communication with the Club Committee. They should provide updates on their progress and achievements.
- **Positive Representation:** Members receiving financial assistance are ambassadors of Nowra Athletics Club and are expected to represent the Club in a positive and respectful manner at all times. Interactions with fellow athletes, officials, spectators, and the broader community, should contribute to a favourable image of the Club.
- **Social Media Representation:** All references to the Club and sporting achievements through social media should be positive and respectful.

Limitations of financial assistance

All financial assistance provided by Nowra Athletics Club is entirely discretionary. The Committee have the right to decline or reject an application if the criteria is not met.

The amount of financial assistance given to an applicant is entirely at the discretion of the Committee.

Financial assistance is dependent on Club income.

An applicant may apply for financial assistance on one occasion only each season.